

## **“Active and reserve Seabees Provides Support in Fallujah”**

Story by: UT1(SCW/NAC) Sean Stewart

Photos by: PH2(AW) Philip Forrest

**AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq** - U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR (NMCB 4), based in Port Hueneme, California is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II as part of Task Force Echo (TFE). They bring with them a wide range of capabilities, ranging from heavy equipment operation to basic utilities support and maintenance. One of the key companies in TFE's organization is Barley Company. It is a combination of Bravo and Charlie Companies made up of U.S. Naval Reserve Seabees from NMCB 23 that have been activated and integrated into NMCB 4's organization.

Over the past month, Barley Company has completed many projects. One of the most important has been preparing berthing and shower facilities for incoming Marine Corps, Army and Iraqi National Guard personnel in support of Operation Phantom Fury. Under the leadership of LTjg Dwight Roberson and Builder Chief (SCW) William Wright, the Seabees of Barley Company have set up 15 shower facilities, 35 sixty-man circus berthing tents, and provided electrical power for thousands of U.S. Soldiers, Marines and Iraqi Soldiers.

“I feel the creation of the tent camps played an important role in accommodating the large influx of troops, and ensuring mission accomplishment in support of Operation Phantom Fury,” says Utilitiesman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Robert Bingaman of Harrisburg, PA.

Near the end of Operation Phantom Fury, Barley Company was also tasked to restore utilities in the city of Fallujah. When the Marines needed someone to help them fortify the Mayor’s Complex while it was used as an interim government center, Barley Company proved they were up to the task. Demonstrating their “Can Do” spirit, they quickly repaired interior electrical systems, fortified windows, and cleared debris from the main roadways in Fallujah to expedite the establishment of the Civil Military Operations Center, which will be the center for all government and contracting activities rebuilding Fallujah.

As the deployment begins its downward slope, the Seabees in Barley Company are looking at ways to set the incoming Battalion up for success. To support this intent and to help provide a place to escape for a break, Barley built a large Morale and Recreation center on their compound. It will provide incoming Battalion personnel with a lounge area, complete with pool tables and televisions in a large movie room.

“This will give the troops a nice environment to relax in other than the small rooms they live in after a long hard day of work,” says Builder 2<sup>nd</sup> Class James Allen of Washington Boro, PA.

As the deployment continues to progress toward its completion, Barley Company continues to work hard, hoping to make the lives of the Marines, Soldiers, and Sailors here in Iraq, just a little bit better.

Photo Captions:



UT2 Kahlil Dawson, of NMCB 4, applies PVC cement to a pipe fitting, joining the drains of a shower trailer to be used by US Army and Marine personnel at Camp Fallujah, Iraq. (US Navy photo by PH2(AW) Philip Forrest.)



CE1(SCW) Kevin Zolna, of NMCB 23, performs the finishing touches on a water heater he installed in a head and shower trailer to be used by US Marines at Camp Baharia, Iraq. (US Navy photograph by PH2(AW) Philip Forrest)



Personnel from NMCB 4 and NMCB 23 band together to form “Barley Company”. Among other projects, they work hard to keep water, a precious resource in Iraq, flowing to U.S. service members and local farmers in the area. (US Navy photograph by PH2(AW) Philip Forrest)